By the King.

A PROCLAMATION

Declaring His Majesties pleasure to Settle and Establish a Free Port at His City of *Tanger* in *Africa*.

CHARLES R.

AS We cannot but know that the welfare and prosperity of Our good Subjects depends very much upon the safety and improvement of Trade, and have therefore made it a great part of Our Princely Care and Study to find out ways and means for the advancement and security of their general Traffique and Commerce; So We cannot but hope that these Our just ends and purposes (which We had chiefly in Our prospect) will be very much promoted by gaining the City of Tanger in Africa as an accession unto Our Dominions.

It being not unreasonable to believe, that by means of this Our City of Tanger, a way may be opened to Trades not yet used, and such as could not heretofore with any safety be attempted: wherein if the success should not answer Our desires, yet certainly many of those Trades which are now frequented, will hereafter be carried on with much more ease and security to Our Merchants, when they shall have a good Port in the entry of the Mediterranean to befriend them. To the end therefore that all fit encouragement may be given to make use of the advantages of this Port,

We have thought fit to declare, and do hereby Declare and Publish Our Royal Will and Pleasure, That Our City of Tanger is and shall be a Port free to all Merchants, as well Forreigners as others, with their Ships and Vessels, Except such Ships and Vessels which shall come from beyond the Cape of Good Hope, commonly called Capo de bon esperanza; And except Ships coming from any of Our English Plantations, for and during such Time, and upon such Terms, Articles, and Conditions as are herein after expressed, (That is to say)

I. First it shall be lawful for all Our good Subjects, and the Subjects of any other Nation in amity with Us (except before excepted) to come freely into Our Port at Tanger, with their Ships, Vessels, and Merchandizes, and to land the same, or any part thereof, and lay them up in such Ware-houses or other places as they shall think fit.

II. All persons coming into Our said Port with any Ships, or Merchandizes, shall Enter, or cause to be Entred in the Registry there to be kept for that purpose, all the Goods, Wares, Merchandizes and Commodities by them landed, and shall pay, or cause to be paid for every hundred pounds worth of Goods so landed, according to the Rates and Values of Merchandizes set down in the Book of Rates established in England, Five shillings for the Entry thereof, and no other Duty or Payment whatsoever.

III. If any person shall refuse or neglect to make Entry of his Goods so Imported and Landed, or shall not make Entry without fraud or deceit; The person so refusing or neglecting to make Entry, or making short Entry, shall lose and forfeit the Ship or Vessel, together with all the Goods so Imported, and be utterly uncapable of any of the Priviledges or Benefits herein before or after mentioned.

IV. It shall be lawful for all persons to Export or Sell upon the place, the Goods so Imported, at his and their will and pleasure, without paying any further or other Imposition or Duty whatsoever.

V. All persons Exporting any Goods from Our said Port and City of Tanger, into any part of Our Kingdoms of England or Ireland, shall be obliged to Export the same in English Shipping, and with English Mariners.

VI. This Liberty and Freedom of Our Port at Tanger shall continue from the Nine and twentieth day of September 1662. for and during the full time and term of Five years from thenceforth next coming; In all which time there shall be no further or greater improvement of Our Customs within Our said Port. And We do also Declare, That when those Five years shall be elapsed, We shall not make any new or greater Imposition upon the Trade of that Port, without first giving publick notice thereof after the expiration of Five years, by the space of Two years before any such new or greater Imposition shall take effect.

Given at Our Court *Whitehall*, this Sixteenth day of *November*, in the Fourteenth year of Our Reign.

God Save the King.

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